

AMENDMENTS IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 11, with the following:

Also attaching to PCI local bus 20 are a hard disk drive 5, a communications interface adapter 15, an expansion bus bridge 29, and a flash memory utility 7. Communications interface adapter 15 connects personal computer system 10 to a network 17. Expansion bus bridge 29, such as a PCI-to-industry standard architecture (ISA) bus bridge, may be utilized for coupling ISA bus 25 to PCI local bus 20. As shown, a keyboard 26 and a mouse 28 are attached to ISA bus 25 for performing certain basic I/O functions. A graphics adapter 21 is also attached to PCI local bus 20 for controlling visual output through display monitor 22.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 19, with the following:

In the depicted embodiment, the functionality provided by hardware security device 4 defines a “trusted subsystem” within computer system 10 with which one or more data processing systems within network 17 may communicate sensitive data via communications interface adapter 15. One such context in which the need for hardware data security arises is in the development and improvement of security key technologies. As part of the security management employed by credit card companies, for example, public/private security key encryption systems are often utilized. In general terms, public/private key technology is utilized for mutual user authentication (via digital signatures, for example) between otherwise unfamiliar parties. Public/private key encryption allows a vendor (a credit card company, for example) to remotely install a private key into a designated user system module in a manner that the vendor is assured that any information intended for the private use of the user is secure.